

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 10206 280847Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
ACDA-07 IO-13 DHA-02 /078 W
-----280849Z 007666 /21

P R 280832Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1242
INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC HI

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT KS
SUBJ: VIOLATOR OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE WINS SUSPENDED
SENTENCE

1. ON DECEMBER 21, DUP POLICY RESEARCH OFFICE DIRECTOR YI
SOM-KYU WAS SENTENCED TO THREE YEARS HARD LABOR PLUS THREE
YEARS LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS BUT COURT SUSPENDED IMPRISONMENT
PORTION OF SENTENCE FOR FIVE YEARS. ACCORDING TO LONGTIME
TRIAL OBSERVERS, THIS IS FIRST TIME SENTENCE HAS BEEN
SUSPENDED IN AN EMERGENCY MEASURE NINE CASE SINCE FORMER
PRESIDENT YUN PO-SON WON A SIMILAR SUSPENSION.

2. YI HAD BEEN CHARGED IN EARLY JULY WITH PASSING OUT
TEXT OF DUP HEAD YANG IL-TONG'S JUNE 8 PRESS CONFERENCE TO
FOREIGN JOURNALISTS INCLUDING CBS REPORTER AND AT LEAST ONE
OTHER OFFICIAL AMERICAN. SINCE THAT TIME, YI HAS SPEND
APPROXIMATELY FIVE MONTHS IN JAIL AWAITING HIS
SCHEDULED TRIAL. PROSECUTORS HAD ASKED FOR SENTENCE OF
SEVEN YEARS HARD LABOR PLUS SEVEN YEARS SUSPENSION OF
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CIVIL RIGHTS BUT COURT WAS MUCH MORE LENIENT. POLITICAL
SECTION LOCAL WHO ATTENDED TRIAL SESSION SAID MOST OBSERVERS
INDICATED PRIVATELY THEY HAD EXPECTED A STIFFER BUT NOT
NECESSARILY HARSH SENTENCE.

3. ONLY CELEBRITY IN YI'S COURTROOM DURING SENTENCING WAS

YANG IL-TONG. YI IS NOT CONSIDERED MAJOR POLITICAL FIGURE
BY ANY MEANS AND YANG'S DUP IS VERY SMALL PARTY WITH VERY
SMALL FOLLOWING. BUT LESSER KNOWN FIGURES THAN YI HAVE
RECEIVED TOUGHER SENTENCES IN PAST FOR ROUGHLY SAME KIND
OF VIOLATION.

4. ROK PRESS CARRIED BRIEF ARTICLES REPORTING RELEASE DECEMBER
28.
SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Status: NATIVE
Subject: VIOLATOR OF EMERGENCY MEASURE NO. NINE WINS SUSPENDED SENTENCE
TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS, (YI SOM-KYU)
To: STATE
Type: TE
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